THE

LIGHT-HORSE DRILL:

DESCRIBING

THE SEVERAL EVOLUTIONS

IN A PROGRESSIVE SERIES,

FROM THE FIRST RUDIMENTS,

TO

THE MANŒUVRES OF THE SQUADRON:

(ILLUSTRATED WITH COPPER PLATES)

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF

THE PRIVATES AND OFFICERS

OF THE

Volunteer Corps of Great Britain.

HOC AGE—ATTENTION!

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PREFACE.

An obvious question presents itself on the appearance of this publication, viz. the necessity of such a work, when the public is already in possession of a Treatise on the subject, published by authority, viz. "His Majesty's Regulations for the Formation and Movements of Cavalry." That very able work is, however, calculated for the use of the Officers of his Majesty's Regular Cavalry: to them the rudiments of the exercise are of course familiar, and a detailed explanation of them would have unnecessarily increased the bulk and expence of this book. With respect to the *Privates*, the drill is both from their habits of life and their perfect leisure the readiest mode of their instruction.

It is different in the *Volunteer Corps*. In them, both the officers and privates have in general the whole exercise to learn---They do not of course give up their whole time to the practice of arms---they have other occupations which must be attended to---and it is of great consequence to them, that no more time than is absolutely necessary, should be spent in the drill. At the same time, as they are in general gentlemen, or at leaft men of education, they are of course able to take the aid which books afford. In this view of the subject the following pages have been written. They are intended as a drill, and to leave off where the "Cavalry Regulations" begin; to the study of which, they may be considered as an introduction.

Of the plan of the work, it is sufficient to say, that the horse drill exercise has been minutely and progressively detailed; that the errors into which the recruit is apt to fall, have been noticed, and that the whole is illustrated and explained in a series of engravings, in which each evolution is traced.

Should the following work be found of assistance to the several corps for whose use it is intended, the author will feel highly gratified in having in any degree facilitated the discipline of a body of men who have merited and received the warmest approbation of the nation.

INTRODUC-

INTRODUCTION.

IT has been hinted in the Preface that this work is conſidered as preparatory to the inſtructions ably given in other books, and not to teach that which is taught elſewhere. Yet a few introductory remarks on the ſubject of riding, may not be here miſplaced.

Gentlemen, who are much accuſtomed to riding on the road, or in hunting, are too apt to imagine that if they can ſit faſt, and their horſe cannot run away with them, all elſe is matter ofmere form and appearance. They are, however, deſired to obſerve, that a regular ſeat is of importance, not only to the individual, but to the whole rank; which muſt inevitably be crooked if one ſingle man in it ſits with his back round, or head forward. Toes turned out annoy the next man and horſe dreadfully: and the ſpurs muſt frequently, by joſtling, be driven into the horſe's ſides.

A ſoldier *muſt* ſit with the ſmall of his back hollow, and body inclining a little backwards. The inſide of the thighs ſhould be turned towards the ſaddle, the legs hanging eaſily with the feet parallel to the horſe's ſides, and the heels a little lower than the toes---the ball of the foot only in the ſtirrup.

This poſition is far from being ſtiff, for the arms and legs ſhould hang eaſily, and the body be pliant yielding to the motion of the horſe. It is far from being irkſome; for a man accuſtomed to it, can ſit much longer without fatigue, than one who lounges in any poſture he may fancy the eaſieſt: and it is the only ſafe ſeat. It ſhould be much uſed even out of the ranks; and though gentlemen may not chuſe to appear in general on the road, ſitting perfectly "en militaire," they will find great advantage in practiſing to throw themſelves ſuddenly into it from other attitudes: becauſe it ought to become the *natural, unthought of*, effort upon every ſudden emergency---ſuch as the ſudden halt---the ſtart---or the ſtumble.

The hand ſhould always feel the mouth of the horſe, with more or leſs preſſure, according to the reſiſtance it meets with; the wriſt yielding like a fiſhing rod to the motion of the horſe's neck, while he carries his head well.

Every gentleman will recollect, that one hand only can be employed in managing the horſe; the other being occupied with the ſword. With the left hand, therefore, and the legs, he is to be guided, halted in an inſtant, reined back, or paſſaged. The halt and reining back muſt be effected by the body leaning more backward than in the common ſeat. The former muſt

be

be ſudden, with the hand a little raiſed, to throw the weight of the horſe on the haunches; the latter muſt be gradual, and at intervals (with the hand *not* raiſed)* eaſing the horſe's mouth at every two or three ſteps. When the horſe attempts to rear (and then only) the body muſt be forward and the bridle hand puſhed forward on his neck, that he may not feel the bit. If the body is not pliant, the rearing of the horſe throws the rider back, hanging on the horſe's mouth, and pulling him over, or a ſudden halt or ſtumble throws him on the neck. Perhaps this balance and pliancy of body is beſt acquired by *very cool* ſtanding leaps.

When the horſe is obedient to the leg, he muſt never feel the ſpur: when the ſpur is neceſſary, it muſt be applied with preſſure, not with kicks.

The horſes muſt be taught to ſtand ſteady, to rein back, and paſſage eaſily, before they can be of any uſe in the ranks.

With reſpect to ATTENTION, we muſt ſuppoſe that the zeal which induces a volunteer to give up a portion of his time to the ſervice of his country, will prevent his indulging a careleſsneſs which renders a man worſe than uſeleſs. The attention is ſometimes relieved, by command "to ſit at eaſe;" at other times it muſt never relax for an inſtant. There is always one, and one only point, to which the eyes muſt be directed; and gentlemen may be aſſured, that a ſpectator (of even very moderate military knowledge) can always decide *by looking at the horſe only, without ſeeing the rider's face*, whether his eyes are roving. In halts, march, wheel, or charge, every one muſt be always ſtudying whether he is an inch too forward or backward; and alive to receive the expected word of command. One inſtant of inattention diſorders the rank. They muſt remember, that inſtructions are to be given by the officer only, and no ſpeaking can be allowed in the ranks. Every man is anſwerable for his own faults only. If thoſe, by whom he dreſſes, are too forward or backward, ſtill he muſt dreſs by them; the fault lies with them, and he does his duty.

It may ſeem almoſt ſuperfluous to mention the neceſſity of punctuality to the time of meeting. If every man does not make a point with himſelf, to be *on the ſpot before* the time appointed, (allowing for accidental impediments, which, though he cannot foreſee, he ſhould always expect) ſome will be waited for, or left out.

* Colonel Tyndale, in his "Treatiſe on Military Equitation," obſerves incidentally, that a horſe, when reining back, indiſputably carries his weight on his haunches. It is true he does ſo; but the leſs he does it the better.

The advantage of a horſe's carrying his weight on his haunches in moving forward, does not apply when moving backward. There is no danger of his falling on his knees, or giving his fore-legs or ſhoulders a ſhock, as in moving forwards or halting: nor is the ſpring and action of his haunches and hind legs wanted. In reining back, they frequently ſink on their hocks, or riſe with their fore legs in the air. The object is to get their hind legs out of the way, making them puſh the ground (as it were) before them with their fore-feet.

Pl. 1.

Fig. 1.

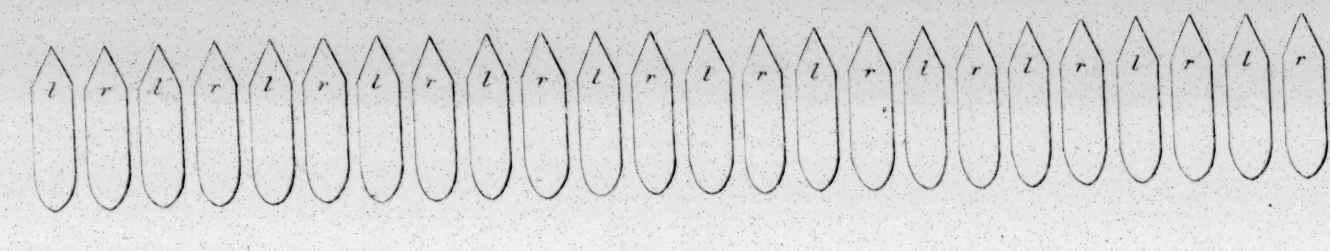


Fig. 2.

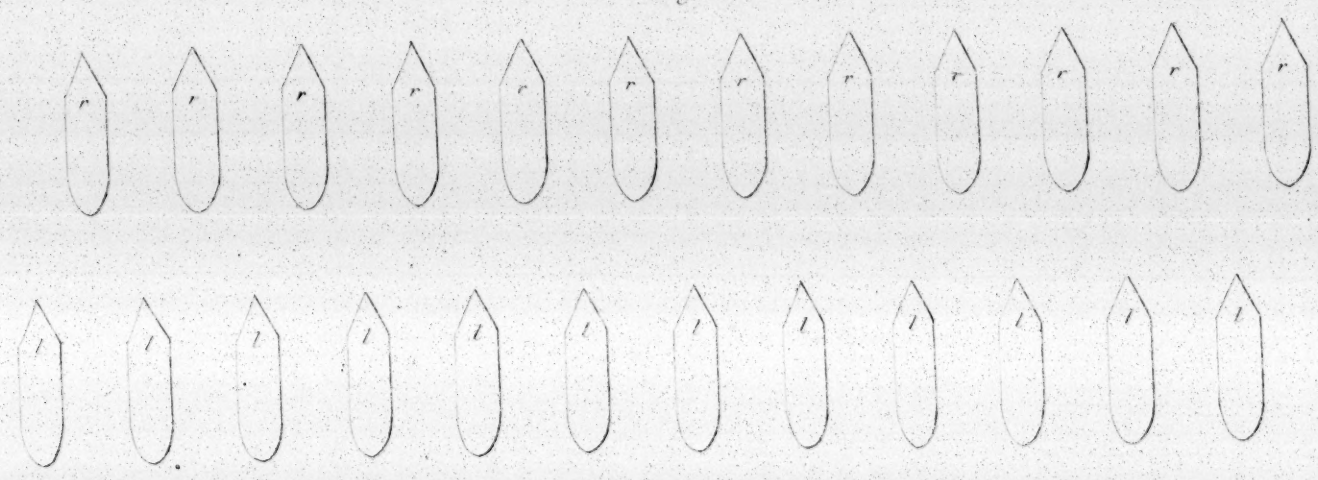


Fig. 4.

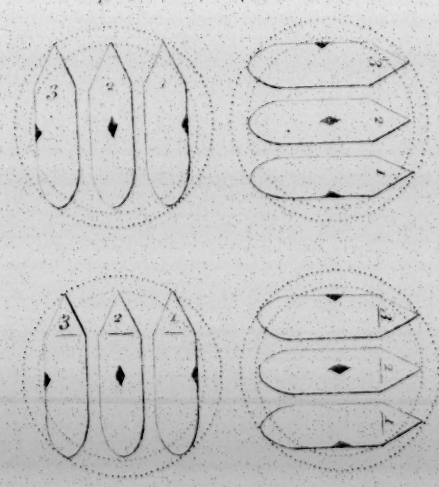
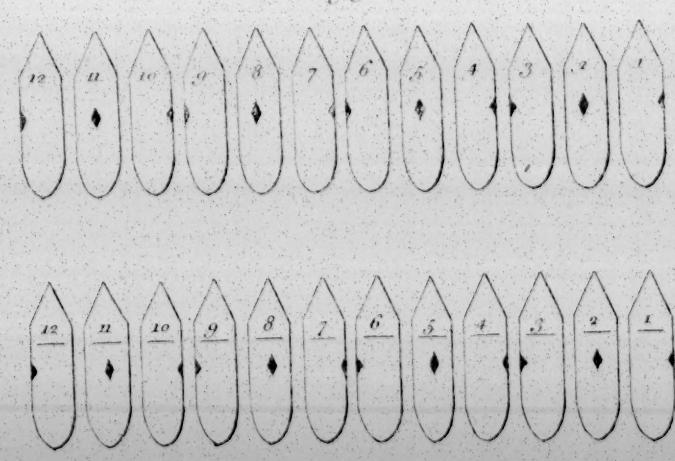


Fig. 3.



THE

LIGHT HORSE DRILL, &c.

PLATE I.

SECTION I.——OFFICER. *Form Troop—Rank Entire.*

THE firſt man takes his ſtand upon the ground marked out, and becomes the right flank man; the next upon his left hand, and ſo on ſucceſſively in a ſingle rank [*as at Fig.* 1.]

They are to form at *eaſy files*, or ſix inches apart; [note 1.] which diſtance is always to be preſerved unleſs otherwiſe ordered.

They muſt dreſs by the right. [note 2.]

SECT. II.—Tell yourſelves off from Right to Left.

The right flank man, with his head turned to the left, cries out "right" the next turns his head to the left, and cries "left;" and ſo on alternately through the whole rank. They remain dreſſed to the left, and every one remembers whether he is a right or left file. [*The letters* r. and l. *in Fig.* 1, *and* 2. *diſtinguiſh them.*]

Right Dreſs.

They dreſs again by the right.

SECT. III.—Left files! Rein Back—March. [*See Note.*]

All the left hand men rein back their horſes, to the diſtance of half a horſe's length behind the ſpaces they ſtood upon; [*Fig.* 2.] they are not to cloſe, but remain covering the intervals, (i. e. exactly behind the ſpaces they have left) till the next word.

The officer may perhaps command them to "form up" or "form rank entire" in which caſe they come again into the ſpaces they quitted, and again receive the word to rein back.

SECT. IV.—To the right, cloſe your Files, and Cover—March.

The right flank man ſtands faſt; all the reſt paſſage up to the right, and form two ranks at eaſy files, and at *cloſe order* [note 1.]. The rear rank men covering (i. e. being in a direct line) behind their file leaders, and all dreſs by the right.

Every front rank man has now his covering file, [note 2.] and every rear rank man his leading file, whom he muſt take care to remember during the day, as well as every man his right and left hand man; in order to find his place in forming after filing or diſperſing.

Number yourſelves from Right to Left.

The right flank man of the front rank turns his head, and ſpeaking over his left ſhoulder ſo that his covering file may hear, cries out "one" the reſt in like manner cries "two" and ſo on ſucceſſively. The leading and covering files have the ſame numbers, which they muſt carefully remember [*they are numbered accordingly in fig.* 3. *and the ſubſequent figures, and the rear rank diſtinguiſhed by a ſmall line under the number.*]

SECT. V.

They are then told off by the officer, by threes; right, centre, left; beginning always at the centre of the rank, troop, or ſquadron, and telling off to the flanks.

Every man muſt carefully remember whether he is right, centre, or left of threes. Every rear rank man is the ſame as his file leader [note].

[*In the figures, the centres of threes are diſtinguiſhed by a ſmall diamond in the middle—the right of threes by a half diamond on the right—and the left by the like on the left.*]

NOTES.

[Section I. Note 1.] THERE are in uſe 5 diſtinct degrees of ſpace between the horſes:
CLOSE FILES, or boot top to boot top.
EASY FILES, or ſix inches apart from boot top to boot top.
HALF OPEN FILES, or a foot and a half apart.
OPEN FILES, or 3 feet; ſo that a man and horſe can juſt paſs betwixt.
DOUBLE DISTANCE, or a horſe's length apart; ſo that every horſe can turn on his own ground, or the whole ſtand lengthwiſe on facing to the right or left.

[Sect. I. Note 2.] In dreſſing by the right, every man muſt look to his right, and advance or rein back his horſe ſo as to form an exact line with thoſe on his right: in which caſe, ſitting perfectly upright, he will juſt ſee a ſmall part of the face of the ſecond man. When he cannot ſee the ſecond man he is too far behind; when he can ſee more he is too forward. He muſt be attentive to this the whole time, whether ſtill or moving; never ſtooping with his back bent; his eyes never directed to his horſe's head, or the ground, or any object whatever other than the firſt and ſecond man on his right hand, while dreſs'd to the right, or on his left, while dreſs'd to the left.

The words of command "*eyes right*" and "*right dreſs*" ſignify the ſame thing. So, "*eyes left*" and "*left dreſs*;" and muſt be obeyed ſmartly and ſtrictly. "*Eyes centre*" dreſſes thoſe on the right of the centre to the left, and thoſe on the left of the centre to the right: the centre forwards to the officer. The two flank men are always to look inward.

The horſes muſt ſtand ſquare, (i. e. parallel) and never be ſuffered to lean, which they will continually attempt.

[Sect. III.] Obſerve, that no word of command that requires the horſes *to be put in motion*, is to be obeyed till the word "*march*" is given. The word of command is called the caution: and upon the *caution*, every man is to be thoroughly prepared to perform at the word *march*. When however the horſes *are in motion*, they are to perform immediately upon the caution, and no word *march* is then given.

[Sect. IV. note 1.] The word ORDER, denotes the interval to be preſerved between the ranks; of which there are ſeveral degrees for different purpoſes. viz.—OPEN ORDER—ORDER—SWORD EXERCISE ORDER—CLOSE ORDER—and CLOSE to the CROUP.

CLOSE ORDER, ſignifies *half a horſe's length* between front and rear rank, and is always to be taken, unleſs the word of command is given for another. The flank men are anſwerable for it, when dreſs'd by the right or left, the centre when dreſs'd by the centre. The officer frequently rides through between the ranks to prove the diſtance.

CLOSE to the CROUP ſignifies, as near as poſſible *without touching*. Touching muſt always be avoided if poſſible.

The remaining ORDERS will be explained in their ſeveral places.

[Sect. IV. note 2.] Men, before or behind one another, are called "*in file*," from the French *filer*; and in this ſituation can paſs the narroweſt paſſages or *defiles*.

Thoſe a-breaſt of each other, are called "*in rank*," from the French *ranger*, to place in a row. Therefore in the ſituation deſcribed in this ſection, there are 2 ranks and 12 files. Twelve *file*, (or 12 rank and file) ſignifies 24 men, ſo forty *files* ſignifies 80 men and ſo forth.

When filed to the right, as in Sect. 30, Fig. 25, the ranks are turned into files (thence called *filing*) viz. the 2 ranks turned into two files, and the 12 files into 12 ranks. So throughout the other modes of filing.

[Sect. V.] This diviſion into threes, is for the purpoſe of *facing*. In the infantry, every man faces ſingly on the ground he ſtands on. The form of a horſe, does not allow him room in the ranks for that purpoſe. Three horſes (form'd at eaſy files) occupy in width, a ſpace about equal to the ground one horſe ſtands on lengthwiſe. They can of courſe turn all three in a body upon that ground, by means of the centre man turning his horſe on his own ground, while the outſides keep parallel to him; the one moving forwards, the other backwards in the circle deſcribed in Fig. 4. This motion therefore by threes, (though always called *wheeling* by threes) is equivalent to the *facing* of infantry.

The following is the remark made on this evolution by Col. Tyndale, in his Treatiſe on Military Equitation: "Trifling as this appears, it certainly is difficult, for few ſquadrons ever do it well. IT CANNOT BE DONE TOO SLOWLY—as one flanker muſt *wheel backwards* ROUND, which is very difficult;"

If the horſes are ſufficiently ſupple for this purpoſe, they ought to move in the *inner* circle deſcribed in the figure; whoſe diameter is equal to the length of one horſe. When they are not, they muſt occupy the greater circle, which comprehends the extreme points. This ſhews the neceſſity of *eaſy files*.

Pl. 2.

Fig. 5.

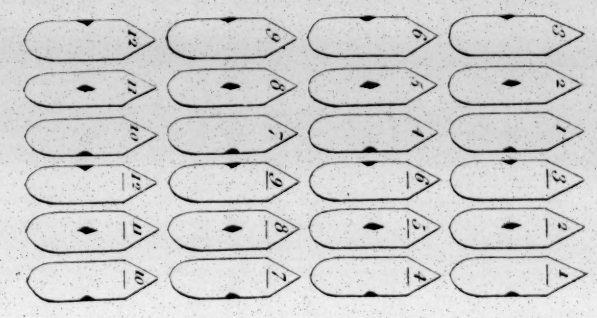


Fig. 6

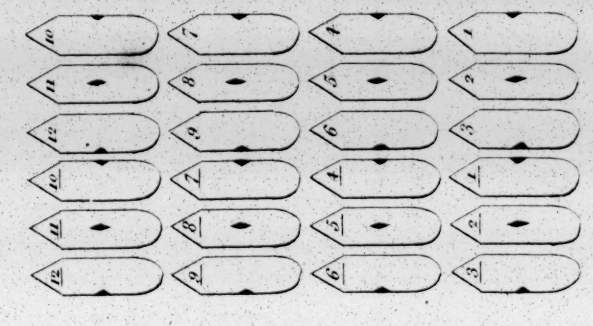


Fig. 7.

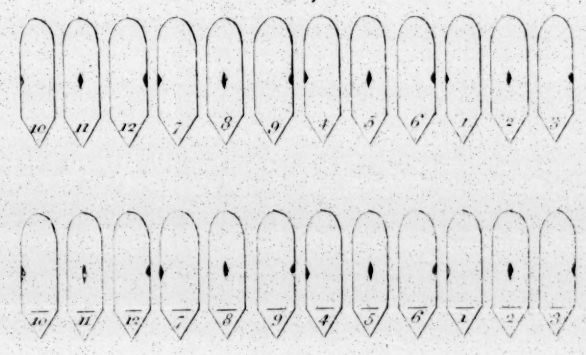


Fig. 8.

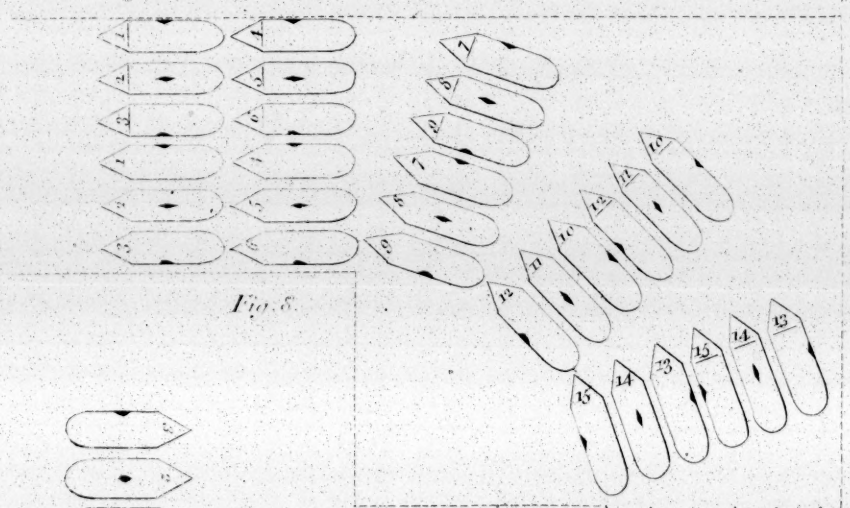


Fig. 9.

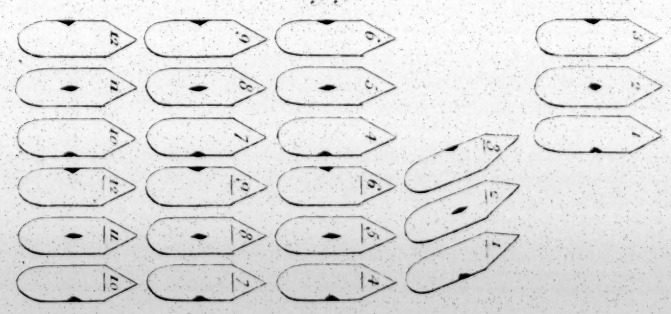


Fig. 10.

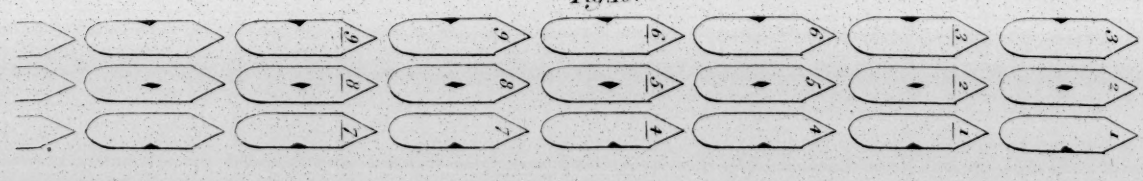


Fig. 11.

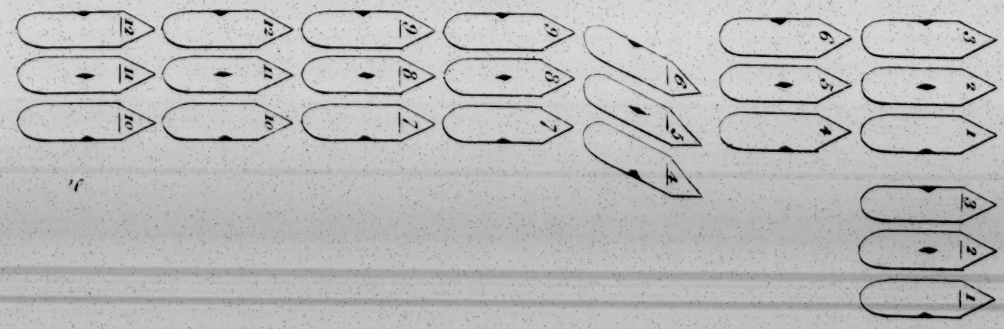


PLATE II.

SECTION VI.——Threes! Right Wheel—March.

UPON the caution, the right and left of threes dreſs inwards, (i. e.) by their common centres, the centre of threes look upon their horſes' heads, and upon the word "march" the right of threes all rein back, the centres face to the right on their own ground, and the left move forwards. The turn is a quarter of a circle.

If their motion was perfectly regular, and if the length of a horſe was exactly equal to the width of three, there would be an interval between the front and rear ranks, equal to the before-mentioned interval of cloſe order. This interval muſt be cloſed in upon, and the ranks of ſix a-breaſt dreſt by the left at eaſy files [note 1.].

[*See Fig.* 5. *Where the numbers are ſhewn in their poſition, and the right, centre, and left by threes, diſtinguiſhed by their marks.*]

The rear rank is now on the right of the front, and the left, or outſide of the front rank are now called pivot-men [note 2.]; they are to look every one at the horſe and man before him, ſo as to cover exactly, keep cloſe to the croup, and all others dreſs by them.

SECT. VII.—Threes! Wheel up—March.

They wheel to the left again into their former front by the left of threes reining back, the centre facing to the left, and the right moving forwards—they dreſs by the right.

[The poſition of Fig. 3, plate 1, is now reſumed.]

SECT. VIII.—Threes! Left Wheel—March.

They wheel to the left exactly upon the ſame principle [*Fig.* 6. ſee note.].

SECT. IX.—Threes! Wheel up.

[See Section VII.]

SECT. X.—Threes! Right about Wheel—March. [*See Note.*]

They wheel to the right about, in the ſame way as to the right in Section VI.—only making a further turn, viz. half a circle, and ſtand faced to the rear. [*Fig.* 7.]

SECT. XI.—Threes! Wheel up, (or Threes about)—March.

To the *right* about always—reſume their front, and dreſs by the *right*. Eaſy files and cloſe order

[They have regained the poſition of Fig. 3. plate 1.]

SECT. XII.—Threes! Right Wheel—March.

[See Section VI. and Fig. 5.]

SECT. XIII.—Forward—March.

They move forward on a walk, unleſs a trot or gallop be ordered; the leading pivot dreſſing by his officer, if he takes his place on the left, or elſe taking two objects in a line before him and keeping them in a line, ſo as to inſure a ſtraight march; the pivot-men looking right forward, and keeping cloſe to the croup—all the reſt dreſſing by them, and covering thoſe before them.

SECT. XIV.—Right Shoulders forward.

[No word "march" here; ſee note, Sect. III.]

The leading pivot-man, continuing his pace ſteadily, turns his horſe towards the left, deſcribing part of a ſmall circle; thoſe on the right, keeping their horſes parallel to, and dreſſing by him, deſcribe a large circle at the ſame time [*Fig.* 8.]. All the ſucceſſive ſixes perform the ſame *when they arrive on the ſame ground*—the pivots keeping cloſe to the croup, the reſt as nearly ſo as they can: they continue the curve till the officer gives the word "forward," which he does when they are arrived in the intended line of march; at which they march ſtraight forward [ſee note.].

SECT. XV.—Rear Rank! Left incline and Cover.

The firſt three of the rear rank incline their horſes to the left, and fall in behind their leading files, the ſecond three of the front rank ſlackening their pace to make room for them; [*Fig.* 9.] the ſecond three of the rear rank does the like; and ſo on through the other threes, *as they ſucceſſively come up to the ſame ground.*

They march forward in threes a-breaſt, the threes being alternately front and rear [*as in Fig.* 10.].

SECTION XVI.—Rear Rank! Right incline, and double your Front.

The firſt three of the rear rank inclines to the right, and comes up again a-breaſt of the front rank. The next three of the front rank cloſes up to the croup, and the ſucceeding threes do the like *when they come up to the ſame ground.*

They are now a-breaſt again, as in Fig. 5.

NOTES.

[Sect. VI. note 1.] When this interval is cloſed in upon, and the ranks are afterwards ordered to *wheel up*, it is plain, that if the execution was perfect, the interval muſt again be wanting. Men accuſtomed to this motion and uſed to correct dreſſing, move ſo as that there ſhall be no occaſion to cloſe in, in the firſt inſtance, or rein back in the ſecond; but they get it by practice they know not how. The niceties in the theory of this moſt uſeful of all evolutions, are not taught or even any where laid down. It is true that practice is ſuperior to theory, but it is as true, that correct theory facilitates and perfects practice. In this caſe the fact is, that the motion of the rear rank, is *not* the ſame as that of the front, or if it is, the interval above mentioned muſt be cloſed or opened after every wheel and wheel up; time unneceſſarily loſt. The centre horſe, of a *front rank three*, ſhould turn exactly upon his own centre, the outſides keeping parallel. The centre horſe of a *rear rank three*, moves a little forwards in wheeling to the right or left, and a little backwards in wheeling up, throwing the centre of his motion between him and the right hand horſe, in wheeling to the right and back, and vice verſa in wheeling to the left and back. In wheeling *about*, he performs exactly the ſame as the centre of a front three.

[Sect. VI. note 2.] A further explanation of the word pivot will be given in its place.

[Sect. VIII.] The left flank men become the leaders—and the rear rank, is now on the left of the front rank—the pivot on the right.

[Sect. IX.] "Wheel up"—always ſignifies to reſume their former front, whether they ſtand wheeled to right, left or right about.

[Sect. X.] The word more frequently given by the ſquadron officer, is "threes about" it always ſignifies *right* about

Obſerve in this figure, the relative ſituation of the numbers—in fig. 7. No. 6. and 7. are centre men—now No. 4. and 9. are become centre men. In wheeling about, the outſide men of the two centre threes, always become the centre men. This obſervation material in ſquadron dreſſed by the centre, as will be ſeen hereafter.

[Sect. XIV.] It is obvious, that the outſide or right hand man, paſſes over more ground in the ſame time, and of courſe muſt move at a briſk pace. He muſt take care not to croud or run off, but preſerve his diſtance from the pivot. The track and the pace of all the reſt, diminiſh gradually inwards, from the outſide man to the pivot.

The angle they make, will depend upon the officer; who gives the word "forward" ſooner or later. In Fig. the 8th. a right angle is made—the dotted lines ſhew the former, and the new lines of march—the numbers alſo are increaſed, in order to illuſtrate it more diſtinctly.

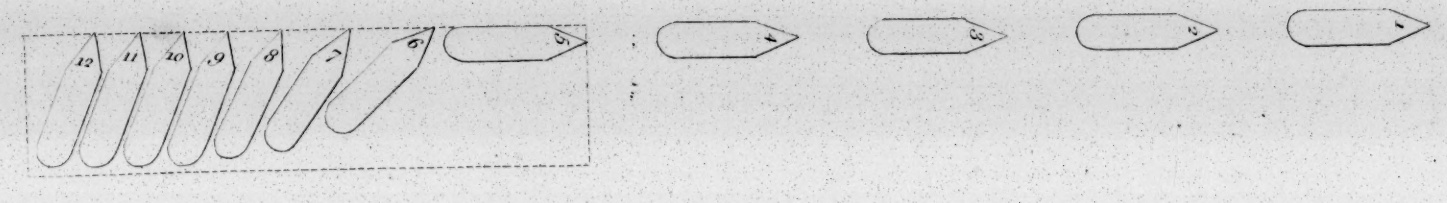
A further illuſtration of *right and left—ſhoulder forward*, will be given, when we deſcribe ſquadron movements. At preſent we muſt remark, that though this ſomewhat reſembles a wheel, it muſt not be confounded with it: the diſtinction will be ſhewn in its place.

Moſt drill ſerjeants will tell you, that in "right or left ſhoulders forward" the reverſe flank, (i. e. the outſide men in this figure) ſhould be cloſe to the croup—aſk them how that is to be accompliſhed, they will tell you, by quickening their pace and inclining—aſk them what fills up the interval behind, they make the like anſwer; and ſo on through the whole column. Yet they will agree, that the line of every ſix, is to be correctly dreſſed by the pivot. Let them then place the horſes (even upon a halt) in the poſition they inculcate, and to accompliſh it, they muſt convince a mathematician, that the radii of a circle are parallel, or that of two concentric circles, the outer and inner are equal.

The fact is, there muſt be an interval ſomewhere, and that interval ought to be (and will be if they only *dreſs*) equally divided by all the ranks occupying the curve.

[Sect. XVI.] When marching from the left flank, (as if threes had wheeled to the left) the rear ranks in order to cover, muſt incline to the *right*, and to double the front *to the left*.

Pl. 3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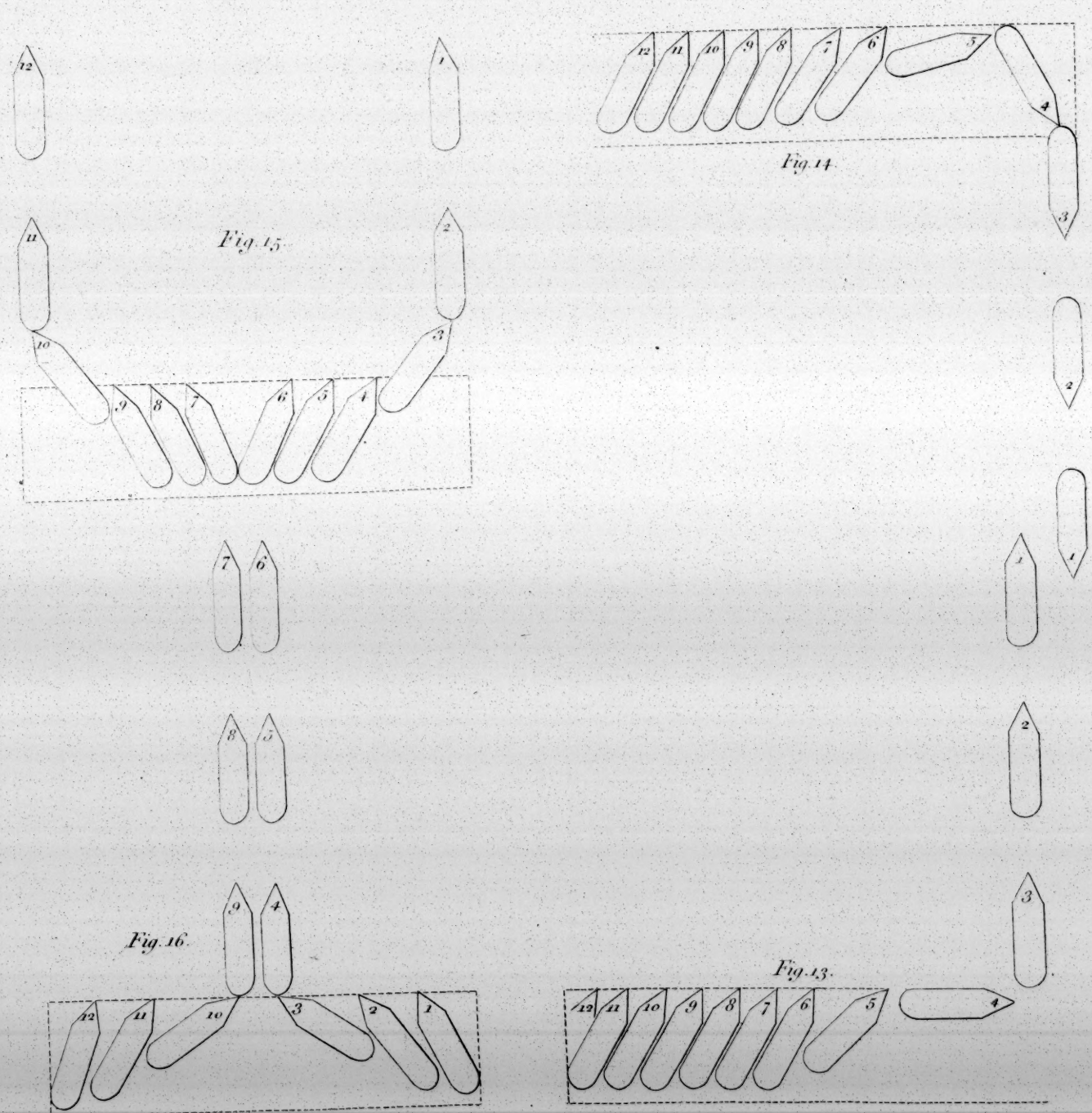
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Fig. 15.
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Fig. 16.
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PLATE III.

Filing.

WHEN the ſquadron is at *order*, or *open order* "from the right (or left) file" ſignifies that the ranks ſhould file ſeparately.

When at *cloſe order*, they file off together; unleſs the word is "*rank off*," or "*by ranks* from the right file." Even the word *by ſingle files* is obeyed by both ranks together, only the rear rank men falling in behind the front as they go off, ſo as to form a ſingle file in manner ſhewn Sect. 39. *Fig.* 33.

For greater ſimplicity, we begin with filing from a ſingle rank; called *ranking* off.

SECTION XVII.---From the Right File to the Front.---March.

The right flank man marches forward, taking two objects in a line before him, and preſerving that line [ſee note] the reſt turn every one his horſe to the right as much as he can in line, (ſee note 2) till he comes to the ground the firſt man quitted, when they follow in the line deſcribed by the firſt man, preſerving an interval of half a horſe's length between every horſe. [*Fig.* 12.]

SECT. XVIII.---From the Right to the Right File.---March.

Performed exactly in the ſame way, only ſtriking off ſtraight to the right inſtead of the front, [*Fig.* 13.]

Keep the like interval as directed in laſt ſection.

SECT. XIX.---From the Right File to the Rear.---March.

The right flank man turns his horſe about, preſerves his direction by the like means as in Sect. 17, the others cloſing up and following him, preſerving the angle and the intervals. [*Fig.* 14.]

Filing from the left, to the front, left and rear, performed exactly in the ſame way, beginning only from the left flank.

SECT. XX.---From both Flanks File to the Front.---March.

Thoſe on the right of the centre, file from the right flank; thoſe on the left of the centre from the left flank. [*Fig.* 15.]

SECT. XXI.---From both Flanks File to the Rear.---March.

After the preceding ſections, this needs no explanation.

SECT. XXII.---From the Centre File to the Front.---March.

The two centre men move forwards, thoſe on their right and left file inwards, turning their horſes in line as before directed. [See note, *Fig.* 16.]

The officer at the firſt telling off, names the centre men.

NOTES.

[Sect. XVII.] When the officer does not lead, it is uſual to ſend a ſerjeant forward to mark the ground to which the leader is to move, as well as the angles he is to make in turning.

[Sect. XVII. note 2.] In doing this, recruits are apt to back their horſes, inſtead of waiting till room is left them; this preſſes the others out. It is done through hurry, but time is loſt by it, as is generally the caſe with ill judged hurry. The maxim "*feſtina lentè*" obtains ſtrongly in the movements of cavalry. Men muſt execute briſkly and *daſh* upon many or moſt occaſions; yet it muſt be done when their duty is plainly before them, and ſo as not to impede others. They are to turn into the horizontal line, (i. e. the line where the horſes' *front* was) by advancing each one ſeparately and ſucceſſively, juſt the length of his horſe's neck beyond that line in order to facilitate the turn, then paſs along there, and into the perpendicular, when he is arrived at the angle from which the firſt man moved: this angle muſt be preſerved and not cut off in the ſmalleſt degree.

[Sect. XXII.] In all filings it has been obſerved, that an interval of half a horſe's length is to be preſerved between the horſes. The leaſt ſlackening or quickening of pace in front, is apt to diſturb this interval all through the line, which tendency every one muſt endeavour to correct. If he finds his interval is too great, he muſt cloſe *gradually*; otherwiſe a jerk will follow all along the line: *by watching attentively the horſe before him*, he may avoid getting too cloſe, let thoſe before him retard ever ſo ſuddenly. Even upon a ſudden halt, it ought to be avoided by theſe means, although from the length of the line, together with the noiſe of the horſes, or wind, or other circumſtances, he ſhould not hear the word. In this and all other poſitions, the words "halt" and "march" muſt be obeyed by all in the ſame inſtant.

PLATE IV.

SECT. XXIII.---Left Form.

THE leading man ſimply turns his horſe to the left, advancing about a horſe's length, where he halts; the next man forms up on his left hand, and ſo on ſucceſſively. [*Fig.* 17. *where the dotted lines repreſent the ground on which they are to form.*]

No man muſt quit the line of file, till his leading man is in his place, when he moves up a-breaſt putting on his right leg before he is quite in his place, [ſee note 1.] in order to preſerve the ſpace of ſix inches, or eaſy files. [note 2.] they dreſs by the right. [Note 3.]

Obſerve in the figures repreſenting the forming thoſe ſtill in file are cloſed in different degrees upon the intervals mentioned to be always preſerved in file, becauſe upon the word "form" they are to come up to the croup.

SECT. XXIV.---Left About Form.

The leading man faces to the left, advances ſufficiently to give room for the line to form, and faces to the left again; the reſt preſerve the line of file up to the place where he turned, preſerve the angle and form upon him. Eyes right. [*Fig.* 18.]

SECT. XXV.---To the Front Form.

The leading man halts—the next comes up a-breaſt on his left hand, and ſo on through the whole line, eaſy files. [*Fig.* 19.]

Obſerve, that each man muſt come up in file to his place, and by no means move up to his leader, till that leader has formed in his place. The whole muſt follow the exact track of their leaders, and come up one by one, into their reſpective places in the line.

[*See the Cavalry Regulations, publiſhed by authority*, p. 26.]

A very faulty method of performing this, is frequently practiſed by way of hurry. It is repreſented in *Fig.* 20. where they are ſeen ſeverally coming up a-breaſt of their leaders from the line in file, and thrown into a curve, by which means much irregularity enſues: beſides which, though on a ſmooth parade ground there may be room for it, on ſtrange ground they may meet with obſtacles, unevenneſs, or pits; and it is obvious that that ſhould be practiſed, which on ſervice muſt be performed.

NOTES.

[Sect. XXIII. note 1.] To *put on the leg*, is to preſs the inſide of the foot and leg againſt the horſe's flank—it is uſed always in paſſaging to direct the horſe which way to paſſage, and again on the oppoſite ſide, when paſſaged to the place. The latter is here required: if the horſe does not obey the leg, he muſt feel the ſpur with it, but this very cautiouſly.

[Sect. XXIII. note 2.] He muſt alſo pull up his horſe half a horſe's length, before he is in the line, and move up ſlower, to prevent the neceſſity of reining back, in caſe he overſhoots a little.

[Sect. XXIII. note 3.] Dreſſing is always to the hand formed to.

Pl. 4.

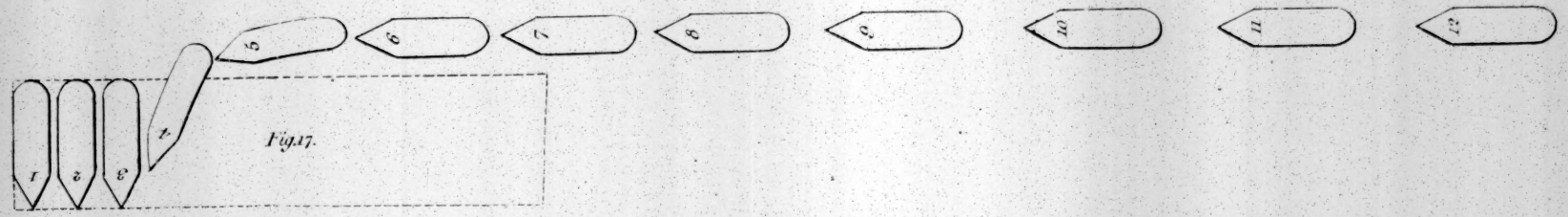
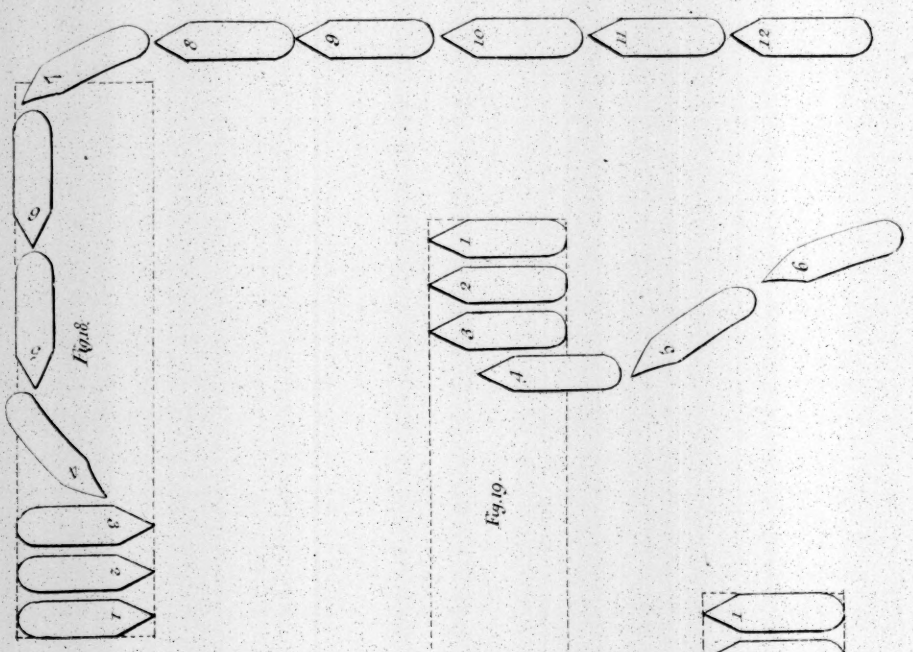


Fig. 17.



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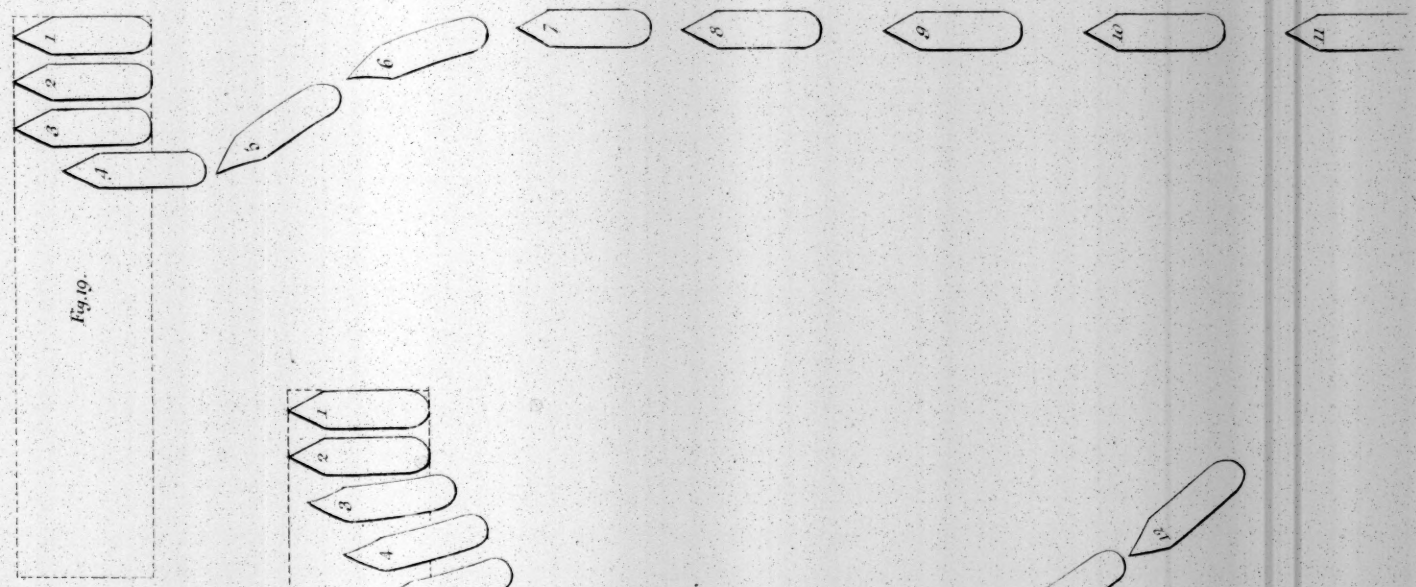


Fig. 19.

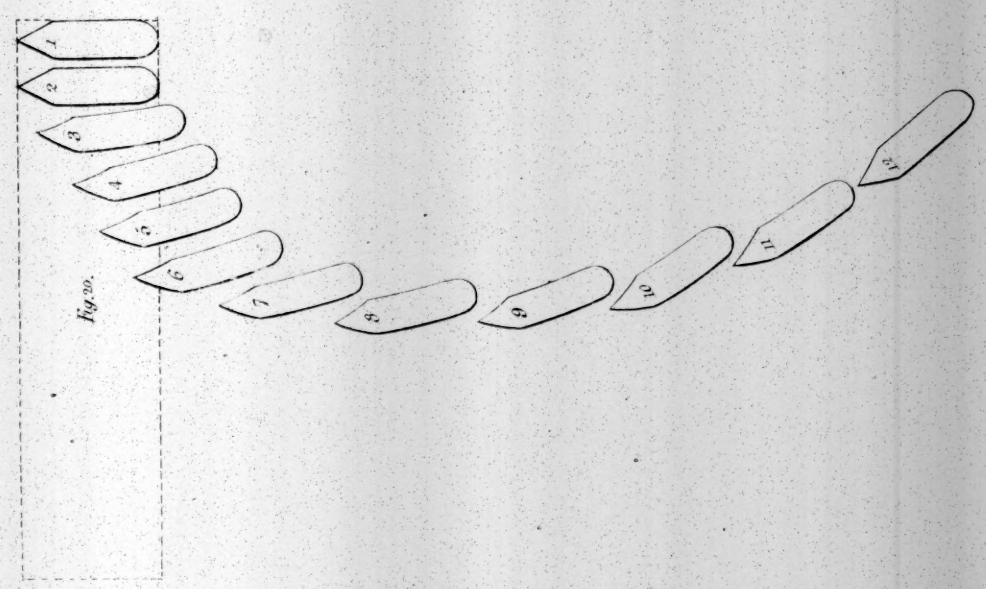


Fig. 20.

Pl. 5

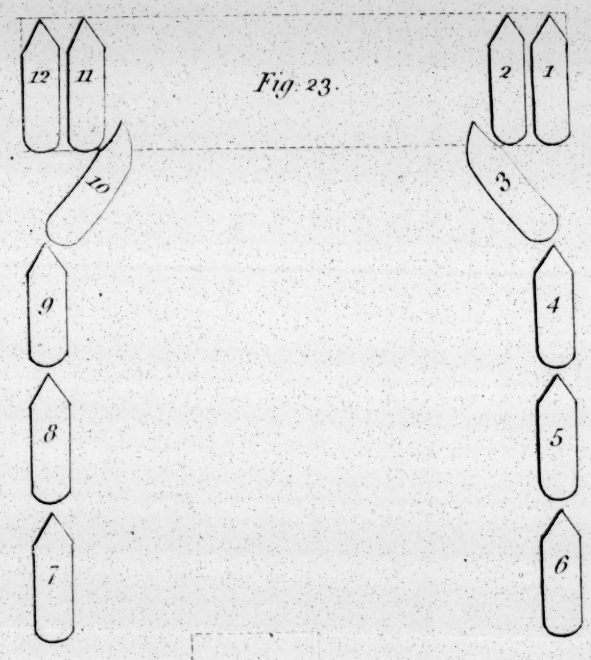


Fig. 23.

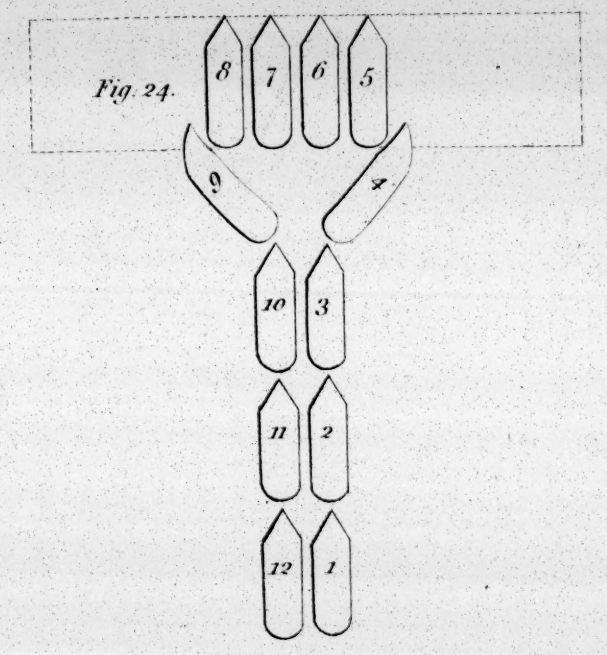


Fig. 24.

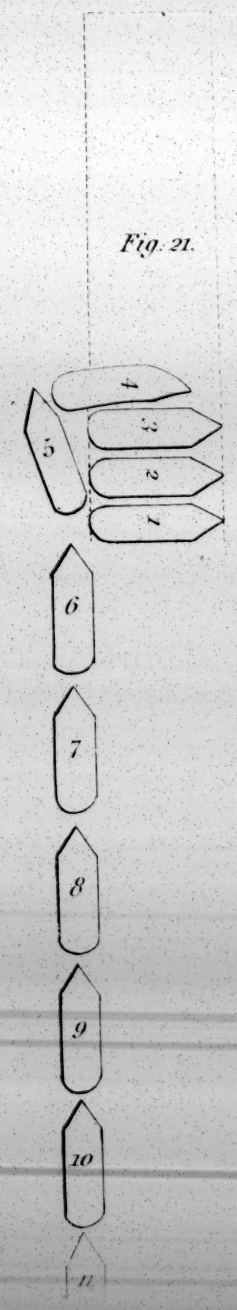


Fig. 21.

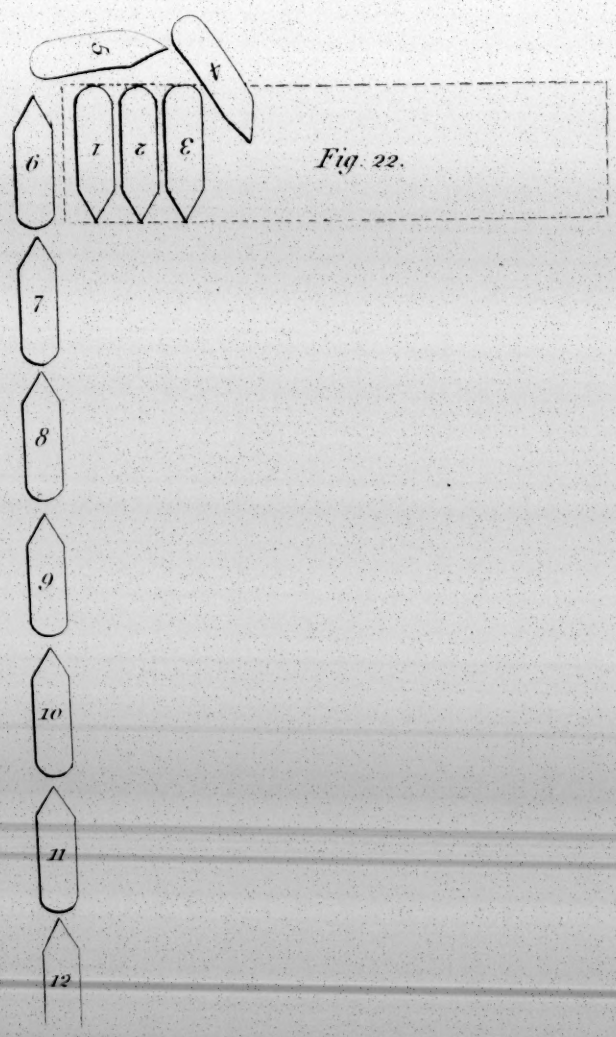


Fig. 22.

PLATE V.

SECT. XXVI.---To the Right Form.

THE leading man faces to the right, the reſt keeping cloſe round the croup, form upon him at eaſy files on the ſame principle.

[*Fig.* 21.] *Eyes right.*—Obſerve ſtrictly to keep cloſe along the croups, and not fly off in a curve.

SECT. XXVII.---Right About Form.

The leading man faces to the right about, upon the ſame principle as before ſhewn: they form on him at eaſy files, keeping cloſe round the croups. [*Fig.* 22.]

In this more than any other mode of forming, men are apt to fly off in a curve, owing to the ſharp turns. More care muſt therefore be taken to avoid this fault.

SECT. XXVIII.

The troops being in files, from both flanks, [as at *Fig.* 15.]

Front Form.

The leading men (who are the right and left flank men) halt on the ground, the reſt inclining inwards, as they come up to the ground, form within the leading men. [*Fig.* 23.]

SECT. XXIX.

The troop being in files from centre, [as in *Fig.* 16.]

Front Form.

The two leading men (who are the centre men) halt on the ground, the reſt open outward and form: thoſe on the right of the file, on the right, and thoſe on the left, on the left—obſerving the caution before laid down. [*Fig.* 24.]

NOTES.

If the reader is tired with the frequent repetition of the words "eaſy files," it is hoped it will be impreſſed on his memory and never neglected. Crowding in the ranks, not only bruiſes the knees, but diſtreſſes the horſes; and in a rapid wheel or charge preſſing them out of the line, diſturbs the regularity of the movement, and even endangers them by tangling their legs.

Men therefore cannot be two often cautioned to put on the leg in time, in forming, and to preſerve eaſy files in the marches, wheels, and charges.

In the REGULATIONS FOR CAVALRY before referred to, it is recommended, that the men and horſes be much practiſed to perform all their manuœvres at *open files*, in order to enſure their performance at *eaſy files*.

PLATE VI.

Having gone through the various modes of filing and forming, from a ſingle rank, we proceed to the ſame from two ranks.

SECT. XXX.---From the Right, to the Right File.---March.

THE rear rank formed at cloſe order, (i. e. with the interval of half a horſe's length as before mentioned) cloſes up to the croup, they all turn as much as they can in rank and go off front and rears together, the leading and covering files being a-breaſt of each other. [*Fig.* 25.]

Preſerve the intervals in file, as directed in Sect. 17. et ſeq. The front rank men are always anſwerable for the intervals, the rear rank men dreſs by them.

SECT. XXXI.---From the Right, File to the Front.---March.

The rear rank cloſes up, as directed in the laſt ſection, the right flank man advances ſtrait forward, his covering file a-breaſt of him, [*Fig.* 26.] all move off to the front, leading and covering files a-breaſt, as they come up to the ground which the firſt man quitted.

SECT. XXXII.

The ſame principles followed, in filing TO THE REAR—FROM BOTH FLANKS TO THE FRONT—FROM BOTH FLANKS TO THE REAR—as in the ſingle filings; only the rear rank always firſt cloſing up, and leading and covering files moving off a-breaſt.

SECT. XXXIII.

From the centre file to the front, is forming columns of fours, and will be explained in another place, unleſs the word given is "BY RANKS" and then the front rank files as in Sect. 22. *Fig.* 16. the rear rank following in like manner, as ſoon as the front is all in file. Eyes right or left as directed by the officer.

SECT. XXXIV.---To the Left Form. [*Fig.* 27.]

Performed exactly as from ſingle rank, (ſee Sect. 23.] only the leading man advances one and a half horſe's length forwarder, to leave room for his covering file to fall behind him at cloſe order.

No front rank man, muſt quit the ſide of his rear rank man, till that rear rank man is juſt coming into his place; a fault generally committed through hurry.

SECT. XXXV.---Left About Form. [*Fig.* 28.]

Needs no explanation after the preceding ſections.

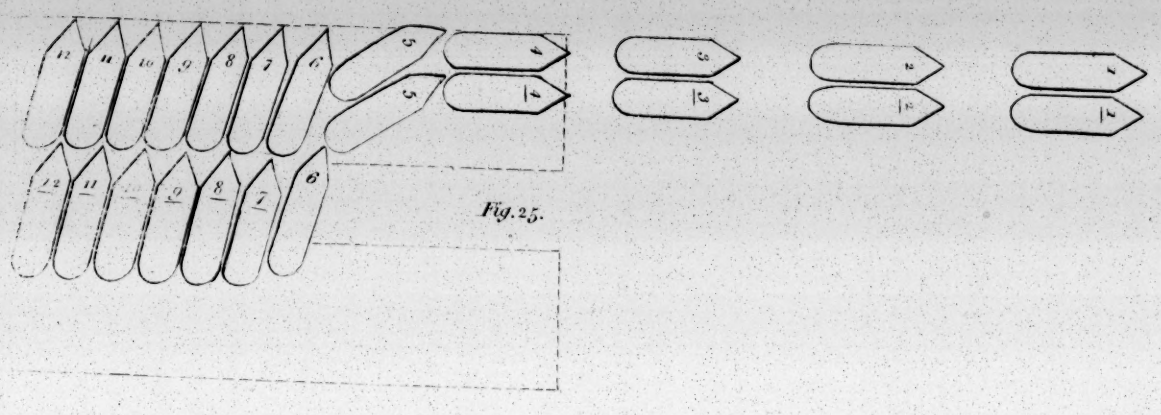


Fig. 25.

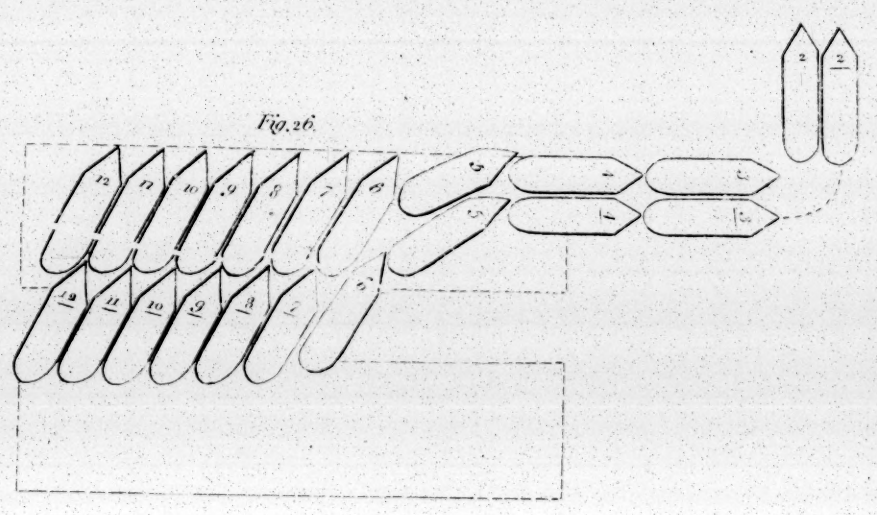
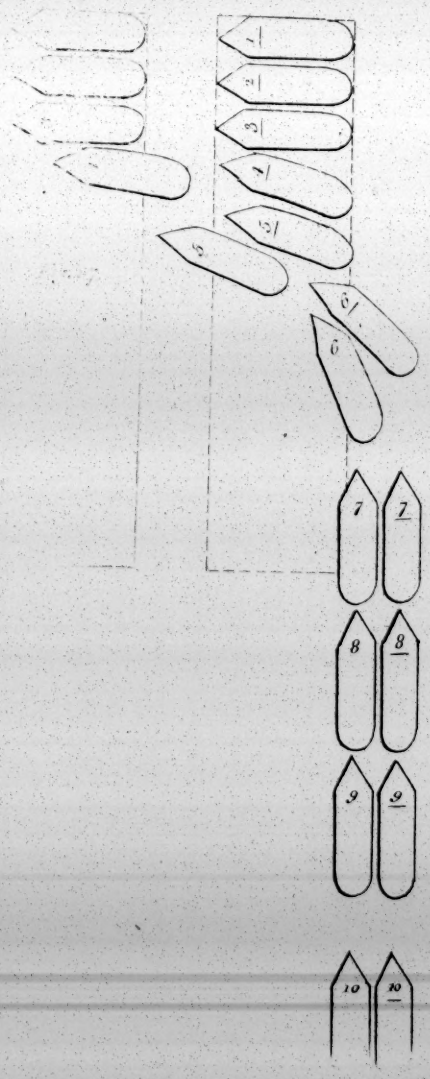


Fig. 26.



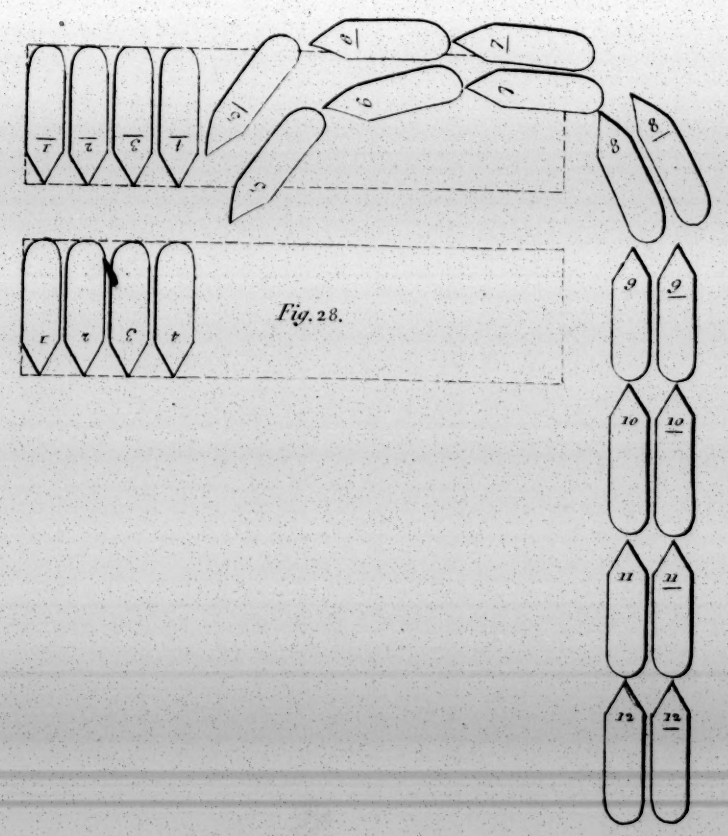


Fig. 28.

Pl. 7.

Fig. 29.

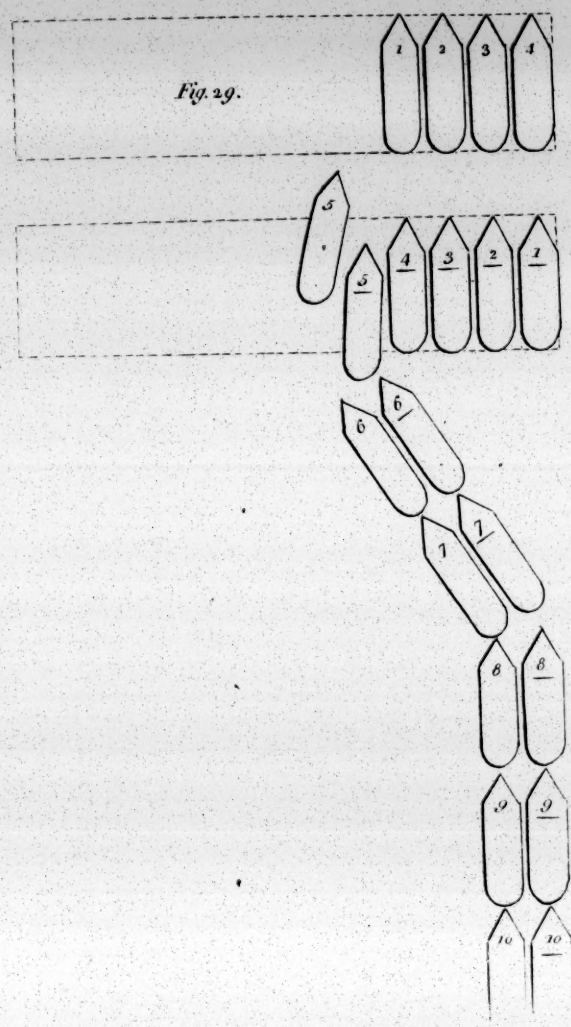


Fig. 30.

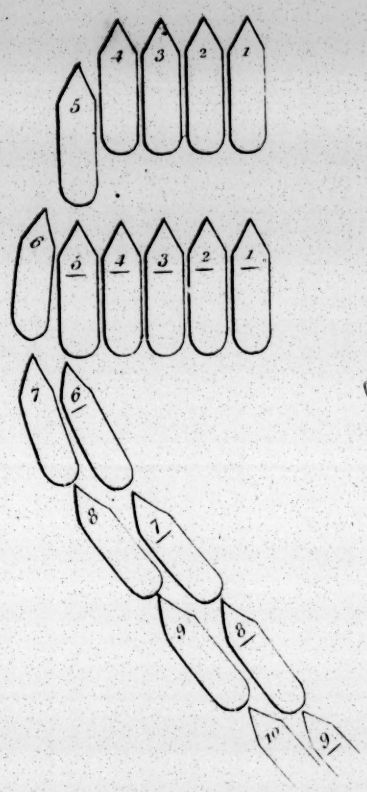


Fig. 31.

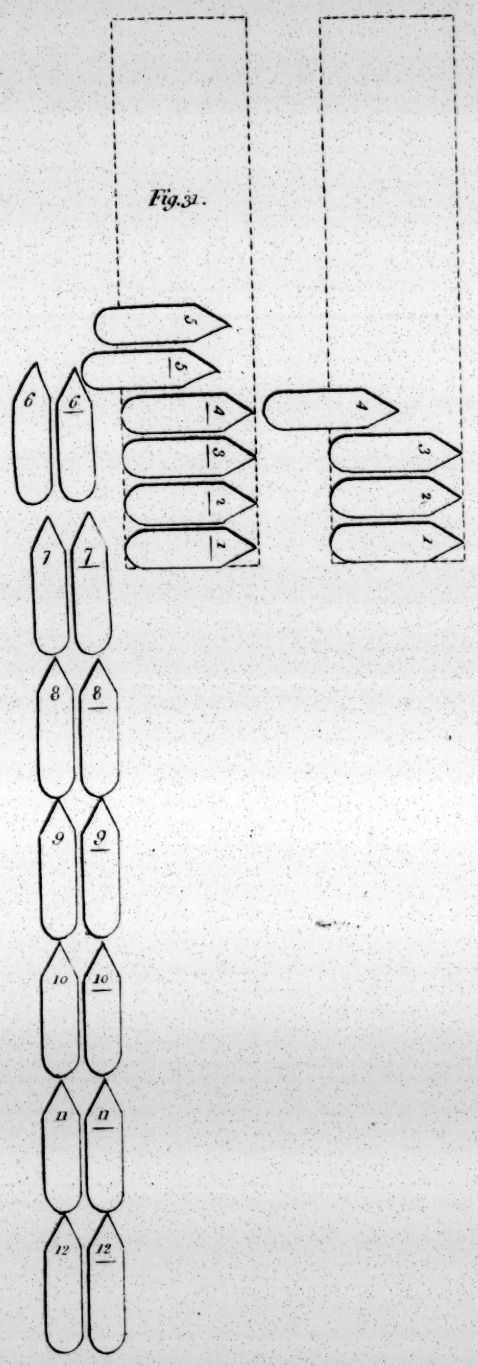


Fig. 32.

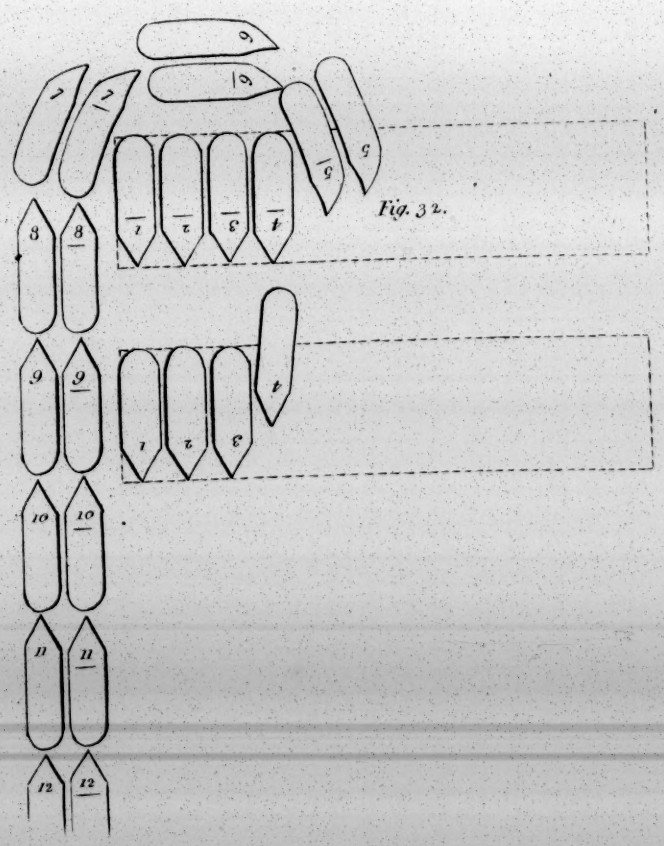


PLATE VII.

SECTION XXXVI.——*To the Front Form.* [*Fig.* 29.]

See Sect. 25, and obſerve ſtrictly the caution under Sect. 34.

The faulty manner of performing this, is ſhewn in fig. 29. where No. 6, 7, and 8, are ſeen quitting their covering files, before they are arrived in the lines of formation, contrary to the principles laid down, and the authority before referred to. They muſt keep a-breaſt till arrived at the line, when the leading file muſt daſh up a-breaſt of his right hand man, pulling up however before quite in his place, and putting on his leg in time.

SECT. XXXVII.—To the Right Form.——[*Fig.* 30.]

SECT. XXXVIII.—To the Right about Form.—[*Fig.* 31.]

Theſe figures need no explanation—It is performed in the ſame manner as when in ſingle rank (deſcribed in Sect. 26. and 27. attending to the preceding cautions) except that in forming two ranks, the leading man muſt advance one and a half horſe's length to leave room for the interval of cloſe order, and for the rear rank man.

PLATE VIII.

SECT. XXXIX.—(Both Ranks being in Files a-breaſt) By ſingle Files from the Left.

THE firſt rear rank man inclines to the left, and drops behind his file leader; the ſecond front rank man ſlackening his pace ſufficiently to make room for him.

The reſt do the ſame when they come up to the ſame ground. [*Fig.* 33.] [See Note]

In the figure, the files are repreſented wheeling ſucceſſively at the angle. In ſituations like this, a ſerjeant is ſent forward to mark the angle.

SECT. XL.—Double up by Twos.—Slow in Front. [*See Note.*]

The firſt rear rank man *inclines to the right and comes a-breaſt* of his file leader, the ſecond front rank man cloſes up to his proper interval. The reſt do the like as they come up to the ſame ground. [*Fig.* 35.]

If they were filed originally from the *left flank*, in order to file ſingly, the rear rank incline to the *right* to drop behind their file leaders, and to the *left* to come again a-breaſt. [*Fig.* 35.]

SECT. XLI.—Form Threes.

The rear rank men of the firſt three drop behind their file leaders, who form a-breaſt of their right hand man. The others when they come up. [*Fig.* 36.]

This is exactly the ſame as forming to the front Sect. 36. *Fig.* 29. only the rank conſiſts of three inſtead of twelve, and being done on the march, they muſt come a-breaſt as early as they can in the manner repreſented in *Fig.* 30. and there called faulty, becauſe the leaders have halted.

SECT. XLII.—From the Right of Threes File to Front.

All the ranks of threes, front and rear together file ſucceſſively from the right, leading and covering files a-breaſt, as in *Fig.* 26. Sect. 31. only being on the march, never go into the horizontal line. [*Fig.* 37.]

From the Left of Threes, File to the Front,

Is uſed only when marching from the left flank, and is then performed on the ſame principle as the laſt, only the left of threes filing off firſt. [See Note.]

SECT. XLIII.—Threes!—by ſingle Files from the Right.

The right of threes and his covering file march as they are (only preſerving the intervals uſed in filing). The centre drops behind—his rear rank man covering him, then the left in like manner. [*Fig.* 38.]

NOTES.

[Sect. XXXIX.] The leading files ſhould in general be ordered into a ſmart trot; as much time is loſt whenever the front is diminiſhed: and on the other hand, to march ſlow when the front is increaſed.

[Sect. XL.] The leading files muſt not be ſuffered to march faſt, as the horſes in the rear have ſo much more ground to go over in doubling up.

A ſquadron of fifty ſix rank and file, when in ſingle files, extends upwards of a quarter of a mile. It is obvious that in doubling up, if the leaders move at the rate of 8 miles an hour, the rear, in order to come into their places in a quarter of a mile, muſt gallop at the rate of ſixteen miles an hour. Some ſquadrons conſiſt of 80 rank and file.

[Sect. XLII.] When marching from the *right flank*, there ſeems to be no advantage in filing from the *left of threes*, and it is objectionable, both becauſe it multiplies unneceſſarily the evolutions, and alſo becauſe the ſucceſſion of the numbers will be altered thus; viz. 3, 2, 1—6, 5, 4—9, 8, 7—in the ſame manner as when the ranks go about by threes to the rear, as in *Fig.* 7. and Sect. 10.

The ſame reaſon makes it *preferable*, when marching from the *left flank*. In forming threes again from this file, the left of threes continue their march, the centre and right inclining to the *right* to come up a-breaſt.

Pl.8.

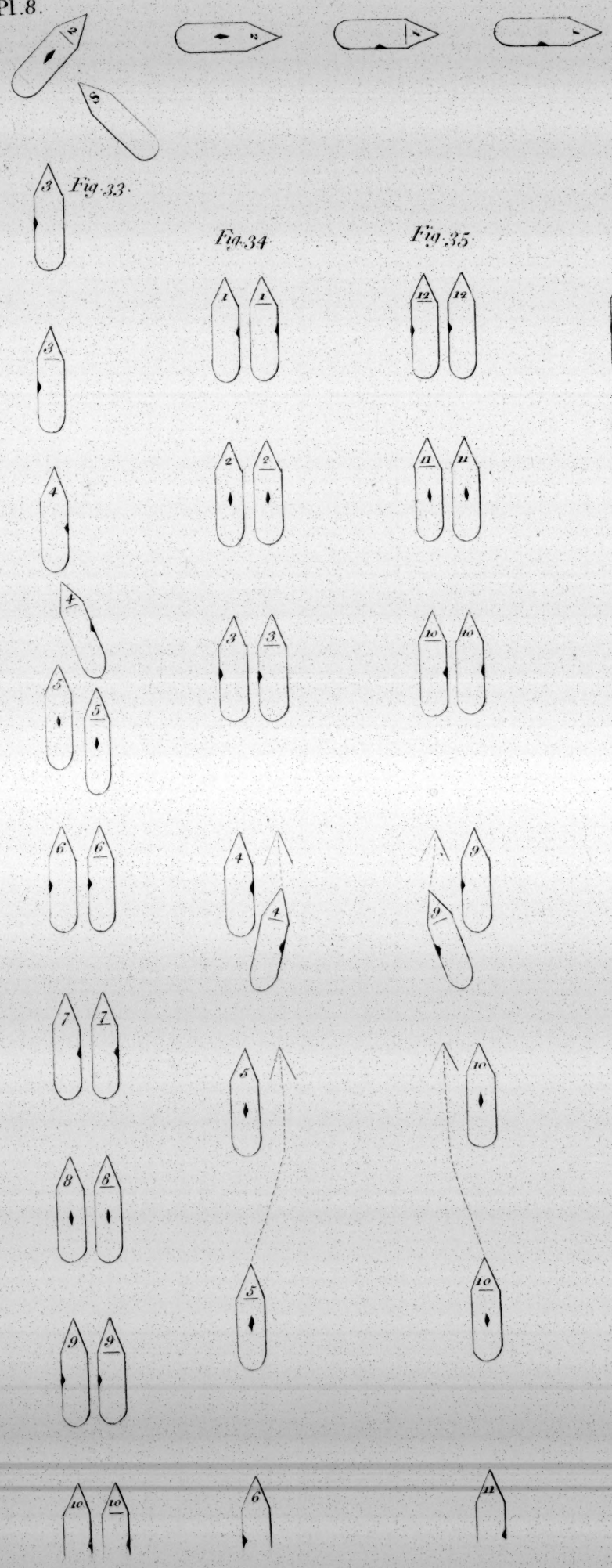


Fig.33.

Fig.34

Fig.35

Fig.36

Fig.37

Fig.38.

Pl. 9.

Fig. 39.

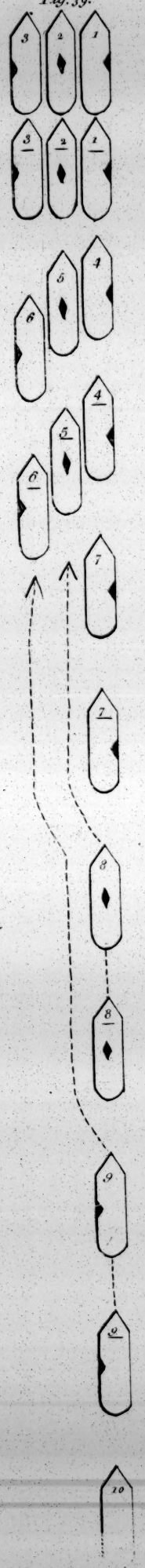


Fig. 40.

Fig. 41.

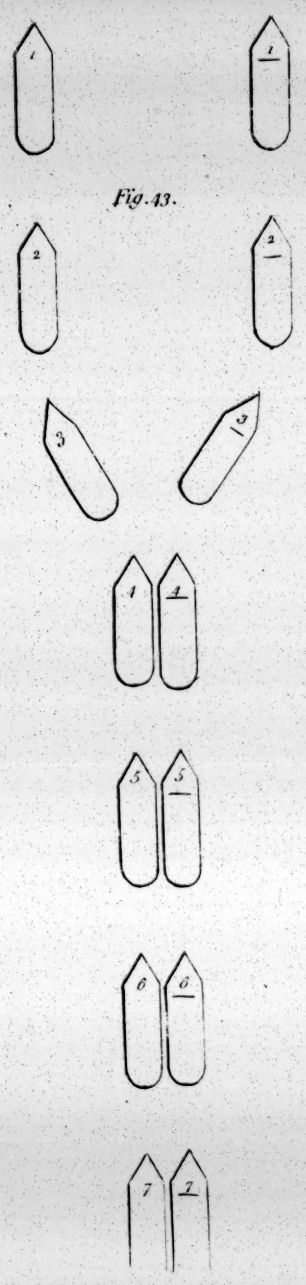


Fig. 43.

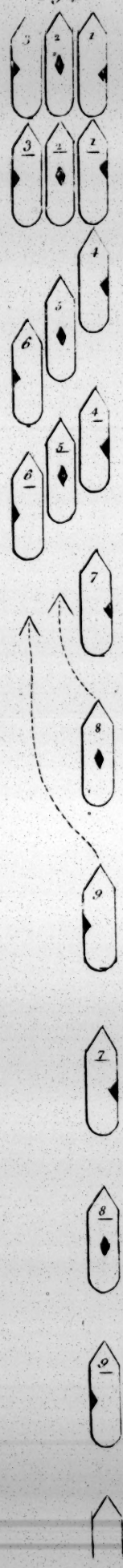


Fig. 42.

PLATE IX.

SECT. XLIV.---Form Threes (viz. from ſingle Files). [*Note.*]

THE right of threes all move on in the direction they are in. The centre and left men of the *front-rank* threes incline to the left, (each paſſing the rear-rank man that is before him) and come a-breaſt of their own right-hand man.

The rear follow and cover. [*Fig.* 39, *where the dotted lines ſhew the intended traſt of the next threes.*]

We have now ſhewn how to diminiſh the front upon the march from 6 a-breaſt to 3, 2, or 1, and increaſe it again as occaſion may require.

Simple as theſe evolutions are when the principle is underſtood, it is certain that recruits are frequently puzzled in the performance.

The *ranking off of threes* muſt alſo be taught. It has its advantage, and is, perhaps, a readier and more ſimple method of diminiſhing a front of three, and forming again, than the foregoing: but as the preceding is what neceſſarily follows from double filing, it muſt be firſt practiſed, and become perfectly familiar to the men, before they are taught the following.

SECT. XLV.---Threes! By Ranks---from the Right File to the Front. [*See Note* 1.]

The firſt three of the front rank only file off—then the firſt three of the rear rank. The reſt as they come up to the ground, [*Fig.* 40.]

Obſerve the difference between this file and that of *Fig.* 33 and 38.

In *forming threes* from this file the right-hand man marches on in the direction he is in—the centre and left incline to the *left*, and come a-breaſt of him—firſt the front rank three, then the rear rank three, and ſo on alternately as they come up to the ſame ground. [*Fig.* 41.]

In *doubling up by twos*, all the front rank men march on in the direction they are in, and all the rear rank incline to the *right*, and come up a-breaſt of their file-leaders. [*Fig.* 42.]

Each rear rank man has two to paſs before he finds himſelf a-breaſt of his file-leader. [*Note* 2.]

SECT. XLVI.---Open your Files to the Right and Left. [*Fig.* 43.]

This needs no explanation. It is uſed where there may be room for the files ſeparated, but not cloſed: as on both ſides of a road where carriages may paſs betwixt, or through a wood, acroſs a heath, &c. where the ground is irregular, and a ſingle file can pick its way. [*See Note.*]

Threes may be opened in like manner.

To the Right (or Left) cloſe your Files,

Brings them as they were.

NOTES.

[Sect. XLIV.] It is better, in general, (unleſs they are marching *in a walk*) to double up by twos firſt, and then form threes; on account of the great diſtance the rear files have to make up—[*See Note to* Sect. XL.] that proportion increaſing in forming threes at once. If they are marching ſlowly, time will be ſaved by forming threes at once.

[Sect. XLV. Note 1.] See "ranking off," Sect. XV.

[Sect. XLV. Note 2.] If the leading files are from the left flank, the rear rank, in doubling up by twos, inclines to the *left*, as obſerved in Sect. XL. This occaſions no additional difficulty, as the rear rank men cannot but be aware that their file-leaders muſt be on their right-hand; and it is then better to *rank off* threes from the *left*. See Note to Sect. XLIII. Recruits always find ſomething intricate in the changing from ranks of threes to files ſingle and double, and *vice verſa*. It is, however, preciſely the ſame as the filing and forming of *Fig.* 26 and 29, except that there the ranks conſiſt of 12, here of 3 only. So in ranking off, &c. Let the rear rank men carefully remember their file-leaders, and each one his right and left-hand man. The leading and covering files are never ſeparated in filing or forming. If in ſingle files, they are in file—in double files, they are a-breaſt—in forming, they are in file again. In *ranking off*, they are ſeparated juſt the length of the rank.

[Sect. XLVI.] It has been before obſerved, that time is always loſt in diminiſhing the front: for which reaſon, though it will continually be practiſed at drill by way of rendering it familiar, it will always be avoided on ſervice, when not abſolutely neceſſary. This mode of opening the files in many caſes anſwers the end.

PLATE X.

The ranks ſuppoſed to be now formed at cloſe order.

SECTION XLVII.—Rear Rank! Take Sword Exerciſe-Order—March.

The rear rank reins back at leaſt the length of three horſes; which leaves room for two horſes and three intervals.

SECT. XLVIII.—Prepare to perform Sword Exerciſe.

Upon this *caution* the centre and left of *the right flank threes only*, front and rear, rein back. The centre-man covering exactly his right hand man, and the left man covering him; with the interval of half a horſe's length between croup and noſe. [*Fig.* 44.]

All the reſt ſtand faſt and wait for the word

March.

All the other centres and left of threes do the ſame, dreſſing by the right and moſt ſcrupulouſly attentive to cover. [*Fig.* 45.]

They are then commanded to prove diſtances of files, [note 1.] and go through the diviſions.

Then to the front form troop or ſquadron, and then to take cloſe order. [Note 2.]

SECT. XLIX.—Prepare to Diſmount.

They cloſe their files to the right [note 1.]: Then if the troop is at ORDER, [note 2.] the left files (or even numbers) of both ranks rein back one horſe's length, dreſſing by the right and covering the interval [note 3.]: if they are at CLOSE ORDER, the right files of the front rank advance one horſe's length, and the left files of the rear-rank rein back, (ſee *Fig.* 46.) putting a lock of the mane into the bridle hand. Then, by ſignal from the fleugel-man on the right, they ſtoop and bring up the right ſtirrup over the horſe's ſhoulder.

Diſmount.

They diſmount, lay the left ſtirrup over the horſe's ſhoulder, and lead their horſes into the line.

The motions of diſmounting muſt be diſtinct, pauſing in the ſtirrup with the body upright. They muſt be ſcrupulouſly exact in taking the time from the fleugel-man. [Note 4.]

SECT. L.—Prepare to Mount.

They lead the horſes back, (or forward as the caſe may be) into the poſition, of *Fig.* 46, bring the ſtirrup from the ſhoulder, put in the left foot and wait for the word "MOUNT" to be obeyed by all in one inſtant, pauſing firſt in the ſtirrup, then the leg thrown over and the horſes brought into line—all the motions exactly by ſignal from the fleugel-man.

NOTES.

[Sect. XLVII. note 1.] The officer ſhould take care to ſee that they are at eaſy files before he gives the word to prepare for Sword Exerciſe—for if the files are too cloſe there will be barely room for the ſwords.

[Sect. XLVIII. note 2.] Directions for performing Sword Exerciſe are publiſhed by authority, and perſonal teaching and much practice are neceſſary.

With reſpect to performing it *in ſpeed*, (an accompliſhment abſolutely neceſſary for a light-horſe-man) we may be allowed to make a few remarks.

The neceſſity of a firm and eaſy ſeat and perfect command of the horſe, needs not to be proved; and many poſitions on the horſe are neceſſary in the ſword exerciſe, which are not uſed on any other occaſion.

The ſwords-man muſt ſit his horſe in full ſpeed with the upper part of one thigh and even the knee againſt the ſaddle,

Pl. 10.

Fig. 45.

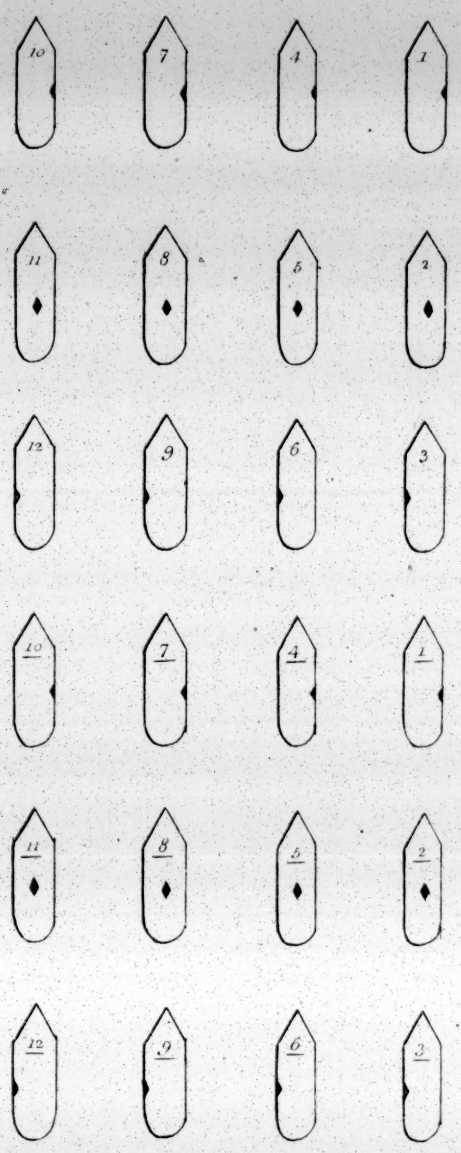


Fig. 44.

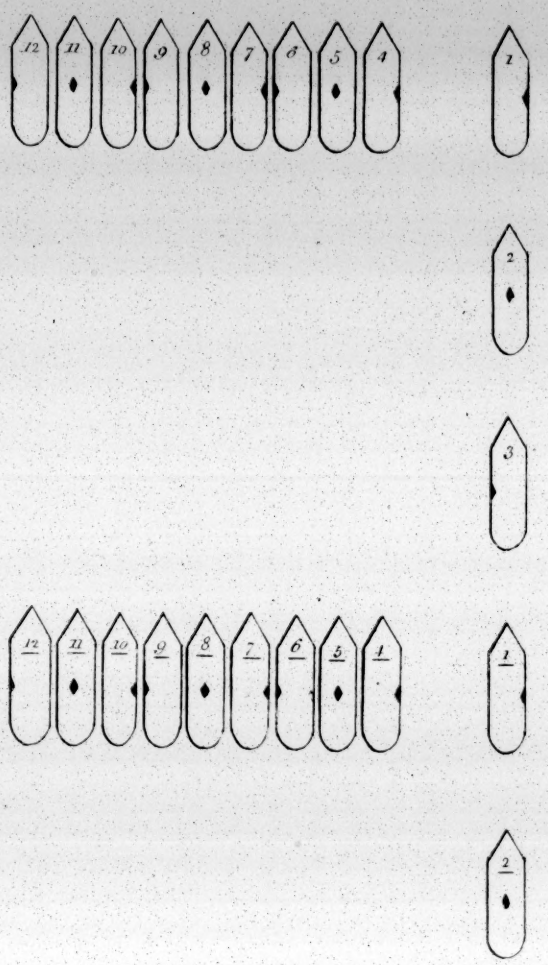
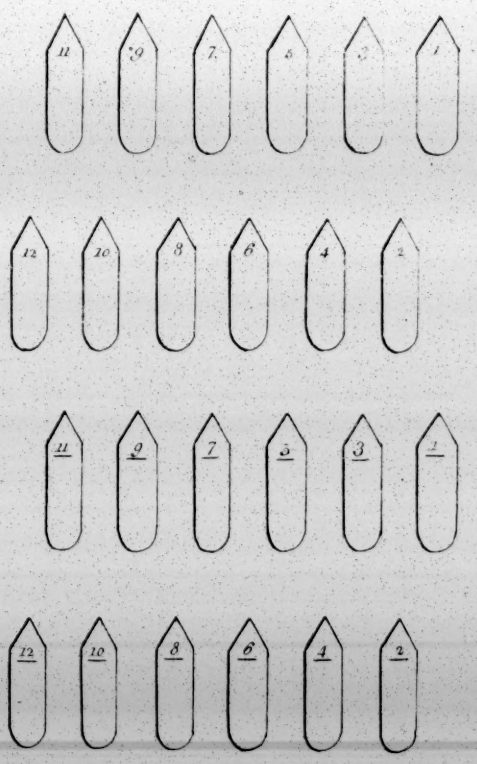


Fig. 46.



ſo that his face and ſword arm be directed over the ſide of the horſe towards his antagoniſt. He muſt change in an inſtant in ſpeed to front the oppoſite ſide, and alſo be able to ride in acting directly over the horſe's croup, and his ſword-arm extended over it in the rear-cut.

Theſe poſitions are very different from any taught or uſed in common riding, and are of themſelves very difficult. We ſhould therefore, recommend that each poſition, and the quick change from one to another be ſeparately ſtudied and practiced without the ſword till perfectly eaſy and familiar. The beſt practice is always in a circle: and when the ſword is taken up, the diviſions muſt be gone through ſlowly at firſt, elſe the difficulties are multiplied one into another —bad habits are got and fixed—and probably the horſe ſtruck and rendered for ever unſteady.

With reſpect to one part of this exerciſe, viz. the giving point to infantry, we will tranſcribe the following paſſage from a book of ſome authority:

"On this exerciſe I will make one obſervation; which is, that the men, who have been generally ſelected by regiments to learn this art, have not been good horſemen; and have therefore, introduced falſe principles of riding, ſuch as, leaning forward, abandoning the horſe and urging him forward without the leaſt command over him, to the very great danger of the rider. This however, I am told, is by no means either adopted or approved by the very deſerving officer to whom the army is indebted for this additional and uſeful exerciſe. Lord Heathfield, whoſe ſkill in equitation amply repays the great pains he beſtows on it, told me that Major Le Marchant diſclaimed any ſuch erroneous practices." (Vid. Tyndale's Military Equitat. p. 55.)

Sect. XLIX. note 1.] For explanation of "cloſe files" ſee note to plate 1. They are cloſed for the ſake of linking the horſes.

[Note 2.] ORDER, is an interval between the ranks equal to one-third of the extent of the rank.

[Note 3.] They are then at "open files." See notes to plate 1.

[Note 4.] Frequent mounting and diſmounting with the regular pauſes, ſteadies the horſes very much. Gentlemen ſhould never allow a horſe (when mounting for the road) to move till they are in the ſeat, and after a pauſe of a moment give him the ſignal. If they will frequently employ five minutes in mounting and diſmounting, they will find it good exerciſe, and time ſpent not unprofitably either to man or horſe.